

Q. 1639

Evidentiary Document No. 5216.

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For the WAR CHILES OFFICE

Judge Advocate General's Department - War Department.
United States of America.

In the matter of the transportation under improper conditions of 1300 prisoners of war from Wake Island to Woosung, China, in January, 1942.

Perpetuation of Testimony of Corporal S.L. Baker, ASN 278913.

Taken at:

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Date:

29 December, 1945.

In the Presence of:

William E. Stewart, Jr., Special Agent, Security Intelligence Corps, Eighth Service Command.

Questions by:

William E. Stewart, Jr., Special Agent, Security Intelligence Corps Eighth Service Command.

Q. Please state your full name, age, and permanent home address,

A. S.L. Baker, 21 years of age, 225 N.W. 5th Street, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma.

Q. Are you a veteran of World War II?

A. Yes.

Q. Please state your branch of service, rank, serial number and length of service.

A. Corporal, Five inch Artillery, L. Battery, First Defense Battalion, Wake Island, U.S. Marine Corps, and my serial number is 278913. I entered service on 3 December, 1939, and I am presently on furlough, which ends 14 January, 1946, and I am to be discharged upon reporting for duty.

Q. Are you married?

A. No.

Q. What was the extent of your civilian education.

A. I completed the tenth grade.

Q. What was your civilian occupation?

A. I was a sales solicitor and did construction work.

Q. Are you presently employed?

A. Yes, at Westinghouse Electric Supply Company as a receiving clerk.

Q. During your period of service were you a prisoner of war?

A. Yes, I was a prisoner of the Japanese for three years and eight months, from 23 December, 1941, until liberated about 1 September, 1945.

Q. In what camps were you held a prisoner of war by the Japanese?

A. I was captured on 23 December, 1941, on Wake Island and was held there until about 10 January, 1942, when I was taken by ship, the Nitta Maru, to Woosung, China, on 25 January, 1942, and was held there in a prisoner of war camp until about December of 1942, when we were marched a distance of about fifteen miles to Kiangwan, China, and I was held there until August, 1943. I was then taken by ship to ~~Stumeri~~ ^{Tsunoji} Sub-camp, Osaka, Japan, and was held there until May, 1945, when we were moved to ~~Nouetsu~~ ^{Nouetsu}, believed ~~NAOETSU~~ to be a sub-camp of the Tokyo district and which some of my fellow prisoners called Omori Camp, and I was held there until liberated on 1 September, 1945.

Q. During the period of your imprisonment did you witness any atrocities committed against American prisoners of war by the Japanese?

A. Yes. About 6 January, 1942, the Japanese loaded approximately 1300 prisoners of war aboard the Nitta Maru at Wake Island. There were approximately three hundred (300) service men and about one thousand (1000) civilian in this group. As we boarded the ship each prisoner was forced to run a gauntlet in which he was beaten and kicked by the ship's crew. The prisoners were placed in three separate holds, which were spaced one above the other, and I was placed in the first hold nearest the deck. To my knowledge no one was killed during the period we boarded this ship and were put in the hold, but there were a few who were very weakened as a result of running the gauntlet when boarding the ship. The hold was very crowded and there was not sufficient room for each man to stretch out without partly lying on top of another prisoner. We remained in these holds for the entire trip which lasted approximately seventeen (17) days. Ten (10) prisoners were allowed on deck when this ship reached Yokohama and I was told that

their picture was taken for propaganda purposes at this time. There were no latrines for the prisoners and the only means of relieving ourselves was by using a bucket lowered from the deck. The hold was dirty and we were not furnished anything with which to clean it. A number of the prisoners were ill and suffering from dysentery and diarrhoea and because of their condition and the lack of latrine facilities such as described above, this caused very unsanitary conditions in the hold. The buckets which the prisoners used in place of latrines were not emptied promptly and as the need called for it, and this further aggravated the situation, as did the careless manner in which these buckets were hauled to the top deck for emptying, at which time part of the contents of the bucket would be spilled in the hold. We lost track of night and day during this trip and it seemed that our food came at irregular intervals, though I believe we were fed two or three times per day. The only water we received was one (1) small teacup of water per meal and occasionally we would receive one cup between meals. Until we reached Japan the hold was stifling and hot and all of us were thirsty constantly. Each meal was the same and consisted of barley gruel and water - about a three (3) ounce portion. There were two exceptions to this diet - on one occasion we received in addition to the gruel, a small piece of smoked fish and on the second occasion we received a small portion of canned salmon, of which a great deal was contaminated. The portion of this salmon which I ate was evidently contaminated because immediately after eating it I became violently ill and during all the march from the dock to the camp at Woosung, some of my fellow prisoners had to carry me at intervals as I would become blind and become unconscious at times. To my knowledge there were no deaths aboard the ship during this trip, but there were innumerable beatings administered to the prisoners by the ship's crew. There were Japanese sailors and Japanese marines aboard this ship and from observation it would seem that the Japanese marines were detailed to handle the prisoners aboard ship. On numerous occasions the prisoners were searched and all their possessions such as pens, jewelry and watches were taken from them and irrespective of whether the search proved profitable or not, the prisoners would still be beaten as a lesson to all of us not to hold out on them. I do not know the names of any of the Japanese aboard this ship.

Q. During this trip were you bombed or torpedoed?

A. No.

Q. Is there anything further you wish to add to this statement?

A. Yes. When we boarded ship we were all given written orders in which it was stated that a violation of the slightest order would mean punishment by death. Some of these orders included not to touch the ship's wiring or fixtures, not to talk or smoke, or not to move about unnecessarily.

Q. Is there anything further you wish to add to this statement?

A. No, sir.

(Signed) S. L. Baker, Cpl.,
278913, U.S.M.C.

Certified True Copy.

(Sgd) Thomas F. Mornane
Lt. Col., A.I.F.

State of: Oklahoma)
County of: Oklahoma) SS

I, S.L. Baker, of lawful age, being duly sworn on oath, state that I have read the foregoing transcription of my interrogation consisting of two and three-fourths (2-3/4) pages, and all answers contained therein are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

(Signed) S. L. Baker.
S.L.BAKER, Cpl., 278913, USMC.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 11th day of January, 1946

My commission expires:

(Signed) J. K. Richardson
Lt. Comdr. M.C. U.S.N.R.

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, William E. Stewart, Jr., Special Agent, Security Intelligence Corps, Eighth Service Command, certify that S.L. Baker, Cpl., 278913, U.S.M.C., personally appeared before me on 29 December, 1945, and testified concerning war crimes; and that the foregoing is an accurate transcription of the answers given by him to the several questions set forth.

(Signed) WILLIAM E. STEWART, Jr.
William E. Stewart, Jr.
Special Agent, Security
Intelligence Corps,
Eighth Service Command.

Place:

Date:

CERTIFIED TRUE COPY.

(sgd) Thomas F. Mornane, Lt.Col., AIF.

1639-A
問 姓名、年齢、本籍ヲ言ツテ下さい。

答 エス・エル・ベーカー (S. L. BAKER) 二十一歳、オクラホマ州 (OKLAHOMA) オクラホマ (OKLAHOMA) 市西北五街二二三番地

問 日本人ノタメニ戦争停戦トシテ貴方カ入レラレテ居ラレタノハ何處ノ使客所デシタカ。

1. 答 私ハ一九四一年ノ昭和十六年ノ十二月二十三日ウエーキ (WAKE) 島デ捕ヘラレ、一九四二年ノ昭和十七年ノ一月十日頃迄其處ニ置カレマシタ。夫レカラ新田丸ニ乗セラレテ一九四二年ノ昭和十七年ノ一月二十五日文郡呉港ニ送レテ行カレ一九四二年ノ昭和十七年ノ十二月頃迄其處ノ戦争停戦使客所ニ置カレマシタ。夫レカラ約十五哩置ツテキル文郡江灣ヘ行進ヲサセラレテ其處ニ一九四三年ノ昭和十八年ノ八月迄置カレマシタ。夫レカラ私ハ船デ日本ノ大阪ニ在ルスツモリ/T・N 陸軍ノ使客支所ヘ送レテ行カレ一九四五年ノ昭和二十年ノ五月迄其處ニ置カレ夫レカラ我々ハ

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載シマシタ。日本人ハ一九四二年ノ昭和十七
 年ノ一月六日ウエーキ (WAKI) 島ヲ新田丸
 ニ約千三百 (一三〇〇) 名ノ戦争俘虜ヲ乗セ
 マシタ。其ノ一國ハ約三百名 (三〇〇) ノ宣
 人ト約千名 (一〇〇〇) ノ一法人デゴザイマ
 シタ。乗船スルト我々俘虜達ハ管刑ニ送ハサ
 レ船員達ニ叩カレタリ毆ラレタリシマシタ。
 俘虜達ハ三ツノ別々ノ船倉ニ分ケラレマシタ。
 其ノ船倉ハ上下ニ重ナツテ居リ私ハ甲板ニ接
 近シタ第一船倉ニ入レラレマシタ。私が知ツ
 テキル限りデハ、我々が此ノ船ニ乗ツテ船倉
 ニ入レラレテキタ間、誰モ殺サレマセンドシ
 タ。ケレドモ乗船シテ管刑ニ送ツタタメニ莫

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体ヲ弱クシタ者ガ少シゴザイマシタ。船倉ハ
非常ニ混ンデキタノデ狭ク身体ヲ停ベスタメ
ニハ他ノ停務ニ幾ラカノシカ、ラナケレベナ
リマセンデシタ。我々ハ是等ノ船倉ニ約十七
日續イタ航海中ズット居リマシタ。此ノ船倉
積積ニ着イタ時十名ノ停務ガ甲板ニ上ルコト
ヲ許サレマシタ。此ノ時宣傳ノ目的デ彼等ノ
寫眞ガ撮ラレタト聞キマシタ。停務ノタメニ
便所ハナク用便ノ唯一ノ方法ハ甲板カラ下ロ
サレタベケツヲ使フコトデシタ。船倉ハ汚カ
ツタガ掃除ヲスル道具ハ何モ與ヘラレナカツ
タ。多量ノ停務ハ病氣ニナツテ赤痢ヤ下痢ニ
苦シミ其容態ト前ニ過ベタヤウニ便所ノ設備
ノナイタメニ船倉内ハ非常ニ不衛生状態トナ
リマシタ。停務ガ便所ノ代リニ使ツタベケツ
ハ直ニハ明ケラレズ仕様がナクナルマデ其體
ニシテ置カレ、其上汚物ヲ捨テルタメニベケ
ツヲ上甲板ニ引揚ゲル仕業ノ不行届カラ中除
カ幾ラカ船倉内ニコボレテ不衛生状態ハ一層
募リマシタ。此ノ航海中我々ハ昼夜ノ區別カ
付カナクナリマシタ。我々ハ日毎ニ二回食ハ

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三回給食セラレタトヘ思フノデスガ食器時刻
ヘ一定シテ居ラナカッタヤウニ思ヒマシタ。
我々方當テガワレタ水ハ常ノ食器ニ小サイ茶
瓶一ホダケデアリマシタガ折々ハ食器ノ合間
ニ當テガワレルコトモゴザイマシタ。船倉ハ
息詰ル様ニ晝ク一同ハ始終眠ガ渴キマシタ。
食器ハ毎ニ晝間デ三オンスノ八五グラムノ
量デゴザイマシタ。此ノ食器ニ二度例外ガゴ
ザイマシタ。一回ハ此ノ間ノ外ニ一切レノ魚
類魚ヲ賣ヒ、モウ一回ハ息詰ノ儘ヲ少々賣ヒ
マシタガ其ノ大部分ハ腐ツテ居リマシタ。私
ノ食ベタ部分ハ明カニ腐ツテ居リマシタ、ト
云フノヘソレヲ食ベルト直グ私ハ恐ロシク身
体ノ具合ガ悪クナリ港カラ吳淞ノ旅客所マデ
ノ行進中、時々私カ目カ見えナクナツテ意識
ヲ失ツタノデ私ノ朋輩ノ停務建ガ折々私ヲ背
負ハネバナリマセンデシタ。私ノ知ツテキル
医リデハ、此ノ航海中船上デ死人ヘゴザイマ
センデシタガ船員ガ停務ヲナグッタコトハ彼
ヘ切レヌ程長キゴザイマシタ。コノ船中ニハ
日本水兵ト海兵ガキタガ注意シテ觀テキルト

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日本海兵へ俘虜ヲ取返フタメニ特派セラレテ
船ニ歸ツタモノノヤウデシタ。俘虜船へ機銃
モ我ノ陣リヲ向ベラレ、ペンヤ寶石ヤ時計ノ
機ナ等類ヲ皆取上ゲラレマシタ。ソシテソノ
攻調ガ甲斐ガアラウガナカラウガ、日本海兵
ニ屈シ立テラシテハナラナイミセシメトシテ
俘虜ハ皆陣カレマシタ。此ノ船ニ乗ツテキタ
日本人ノ名前ヲ私ハ一ツモ存ジマセン。

問 此ノ航海甲斐船カ集艦攻撃ヲ受ケマシタカ。

答 受ケマセン。

問 此ノ叙述ニ附加ヘタイコトガ尙ホアリマスカ

答 エザイマス。コノ船ニ乗ツタ時我々ハ皆ドン
ナ艦艇ナ命令デモ獲ツタナラバ死刑ニ處セラ
レルト誓イタ命令誓ヲ破サレマシタ。此ノ命
令ノ中ニハ船ノ乗ヤ陸門番ニ向ラヌコト、談
話ツタリ喫煙ヲシナイコト及ハ矢張り二島キ理
ラヌコトガ誓キ加ヘテアリマシタ。

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